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CITY PAGES

September 19-25, 2018





THE WALL OF FORGOTTEN NATIVES

Inside Minneapolis' largest homeless encampment. *By Susan Du*

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SAVAGE LOVE

cover credit

Photo by Emily Utne. Portrait of Trinity "Tiny Bree" Bellanger

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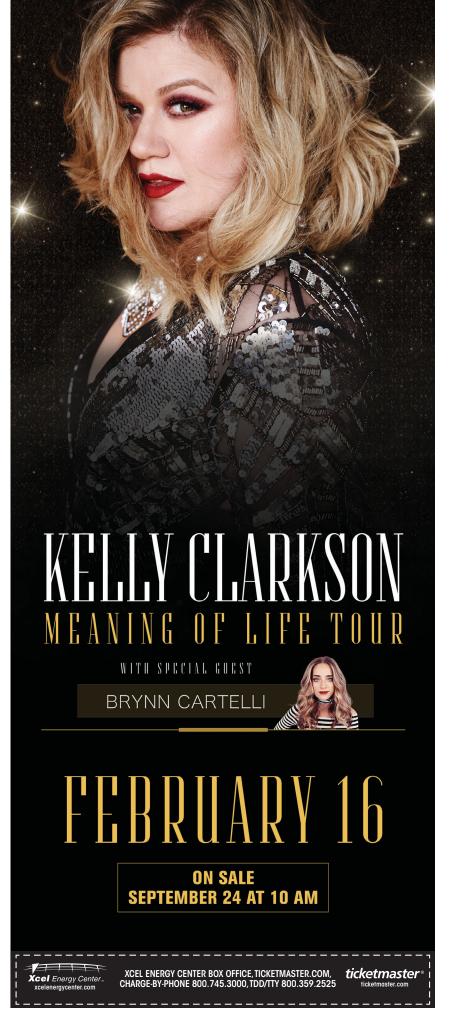
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THE SHORTLIST



GETT

THE STAT SHEET

9%

The lead Tim Walz holds over Jeff Johnson in the Minnesota governor's race, according to a Star Tribune poll

25

Percentage of voters in the race who rank health care as the most important issue 171

Pounds of meth seized at a north Minneapolis home last week, believed to be the largest meth bust in state history

243,000

Number of Minnesotans without health insurance

"People in America have been making this same speech for years. Of course, it sounded better in the original Algonquian."

Reader Randall Holbrook responds to "Madison Lake Police Chief Dan Bunde posts xenophobic Facebook rant," at citypages.com.

FAKE NEWS

CONSERVATIVES MAY HAVE gotten too good at convincing the flock that any news they don't like is fake.

The latest polling indicates Americans favor Democrats by double-digit margins. Yet internal GOP surveys show that many Republicans don't believe this. It doesn't fit with their world view. And they've been trained to believe that polls are a liberal conspiracy.

This has left party insiders fretting that, because conservatives are convinced of their own popularity, there's less incentive to vote. Who knew there might be a downside to living in a parallel universe?

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

KEG & CASE market is finally open in St. Paul

Madison Lake Police Chief Dan Bunde posts **XENOPHOBIC** Facebook rant

Wanna buy a private **22-ACRE ISLAND** on

Minnesota's Lake Minnetonka?

'FOX & FRIENDS' fans mistakenly visit Trump-bashing, liberal T-shirt store, get mad about it

BON APPÉTIT comes to Minneapolis, eats 9 Jucy Lucys in 9 hours, has opinions

BULLET-PROOF CLASSROOMS

Company markets gun-repellant wall-on-wheels to keep your kindergarten murder-free

icture your first-grade classroom. Remember the blessedly mediocre art projects hung in a row, the calendar that taught you what a "Wednesday" was, the walls built to resist the flesh-ripping firepower of a military-grade assault weapon? Wait... what?

Versare Solutions of Minneapolis has just unveiled what it says is a first-of-itskind product: the Portable Shield Partition, a wall on wheels that can withstand "multiple impacts by a .44 magnum and 9mm ammunition."

Versare didn't respond to interview requests, but its website says the company "believes defensive solutions are necessary" to regain "peace of mind" in American schools.

In short: It's no longer enough for your first-grade classroom to be friendly and clean and faintly magical. It must also be prepared for someone, anyone, to walk in and start shooting.

Gary Amoroso, the executive director of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators, gives the wall a cautious endorsement, sight unseen.

"If a district believes this type of tool or resource could be beneficial to students and staff, it could be worth the investment," he says. No single "action or resource" is the panacea to school shootings. And hey, if an armored classroom helps, it helps.

Austin Berger is not so keen: "This is completely irresponsible."

He's a member of Students Demand Action, a youth-led movement born from



Behold, the new shield by Versare-strong enough to withstand bullets as they're fired into a first-grade classroom.

VERSARE

the Parkland, Florida school massacre. For months the group has asked Minnesota legislators for some form of gun control. "Common sense" stuff like bump stock bans and universal background checks. The kind of things that might prevent someone from shooting up a school in the first place.

Yet subservience to the NRA has precluded any concern for dead kids.

So schools are being offered \$3,500 bulletproof walls instead. Says Berger:

"These are monuments to the failure of our legislators to protect us."

It won't be long until taxpayers are handing over money to harden classrooms that double as warzones, he believes. And firstgraders won't think twice about walls that have always been there, walls that represent the continuing threat of annihilation by a stranger.

They'll be just another quiet form of acceptance for what should be unacceptable. - HANNAH JONES











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I. 'IT'S LIKE THE DAM BROKE'

ribbon of exhaust trails traffic down Hiawatha Avenue. Drivers with windows cracked in the late summer heat stare at the line of tents staked taut across the strip of lawn between a retaining wall and the road. Heads turn, hands gesture.

"It's embarrassing for me to be here," says T.T. as she hugs a knee to her chest on a welcome mat woven from plastic bags at the mouth of her tent. "This is the lowest I've ever been in my life."

She's 33 years old, the familial backbone to three young daughters, her aging parents, and a 26-year-old sister with cerebral palsy. All seven live together beneath a blue canvas canopy, sleeping in a nest of bedding and clothes arranged so neatly that the narrow dome feels spacious. (T.T. asked not to be identified for fear Child Protection would come for her children.)

Nine months ago, she had an apartment near Bossen Field Park. Winter showers filled the building with the reek of microbial rot. While workers dredged floor-to-ceiling curtains of black mold, she searched for a new home.

She hoped the hunt would take no more than a month. Her boyfriend has worked maintenance for the Park Board, but landlords wanted to see higher household incomes, smaller families, and double deposits. Dozens of \$50 application fees went down the drain.

They lived out of her boyfriend's van, burning money circling the city, trying to make themselves elusive in plain sight. Earlier this summer they drove past the growing homeless encampment at Cedar and Hiawatha Avenues. They heard it nicknamed "Drug City" and "Heroin Alley."

It wasn't until T.T. fought with her boyfriend—and he kicked them all out onto Portland Avenue—that she turned to the camp as a last resort. It was the final week of August, when the tents already numbered 150.

"I never imagined that I would be here, on a curb with my kids," she says as her eyes well. "Because that's basically what it is. It's a curb. And I never imagined that so many people would make me feel so at home, on this curb. And that they would help, you know?"

She'd envisioned wild nights, an open-air drug market, and flowing drink. Instead, their first twilight in camp was largely still. As the sun fell from the sky, the rainbow hillside phased into a coil of black shells zipped tight. Voices ebbed to a rolling whisper.

A drifter stopped in her doorway, drawn to T.T.'s perpetually smiling sister. As he

Forgotten Natives

Inside Minneapolis' largest homeless encampment - BY SUSAN DU













EMILY UINE

tried to hit on her, the family screamed for help. People ran from every direction to chase the man into the night.

Staying in camp is better than being on their own, T.T. says. Protection and a place to lay her head without fear of police shining flashlights through the windshield were what she needed to breathe.

Others here used to sleep in abandoned houses and the doorways of businesses on Bloomington Avenue. They rode trains, panhandled at Suicide Hill in Loring Park, and camped beneath bridges along the Midtown Greenway and I-94, until recent rains forced giant spiders out of the concrete. Still they prefer the streets to shelters, which are frequently haunted by traffickers and drug dealers, and where overcrowding begets theft and high tempers.

For outreach workers who serve the homeless, Minneapolis' largest-ever homeless camp makes it easier to distribute syringes, administer Naloxone, and enlist people in housing and drug treatment programs.

During a press conference at the American Indian Center—to which camp residents were not invited—Mayor Jacob Frey promised a roof over everyone's head by September 30. As a result, the camp nearly doubled in size.

Yet no one who has been chronically homeless, or has worked with them, believed Frey can deliver. Not in 2018, when the Metropolitan Council considers a \$1,400 one-bedroom "affordable housing."

Camp residents earn at most just onethird of the area's median income. The vacancy rate for the housing they can actually afford is less than 1 percent.

Meanwhile, the city Public Housing Authority has a years-long waiting list. Nonprofit developers reject felons. There's no telling when units might become available, so social workers know better than to give estimates.

"This isn't a pond anymore," says Joy Friedman of the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center. "It's like the dam broke and it's turned into an ocean. It's an ocean of just trauma and revictimization, and you see no land.

"Tm looking for the land to tell them just swim to that island, but I can't even throw a life raft or a buoy. I can throw a granola bar though, and say at least I know you ate for a moment."

II. PUSHED FROM THE PROJECTS

esidents call the encampment the Wall of Forgotten Natives. It sits in the heart of Minneapolis' Native American community, cradled between the American Indian Center, All Nations Church, and the Anishinabe Wakiagun group home for alcoholics who have had at least 20 trips to detox within three years. The only apartments available for rent nearby are going for more than \$900 for a studio.

Then there's Little Earth, the only Native preference Section 8 project in the nation, which looms just behind the Wall. Several residents say it was their last stable home before they were forced to the streets.

Ten years ago, 56-year-old Caryn Pachecho was divorced, living alone in Seattle, and working as an Indian Health Board patient advocate for \$30 an hour. Then she got a call. Her adult daughter, Jade, who contracted juvenile diabetes at age 11, was so sick she had to be airlifted from the Red Lake reservation to a hospi-

Volunteers with Natives Against Heroin are on site daily helping out.

tal in Grand Forks. Surgeons amputated part of her foot.

Pachecho quit her job and flew home to Minnesota. Mother and daughter moved to Maplewood, where they could be closer to endocrinology and dialysis specialists. Jade had a boyfriend and became pregnant, which can imperil women with Type 1 diabetes. She lost her vision overnight. Pachecho's granddaughter Jasmine was born six weeks early following an emergency C-section.

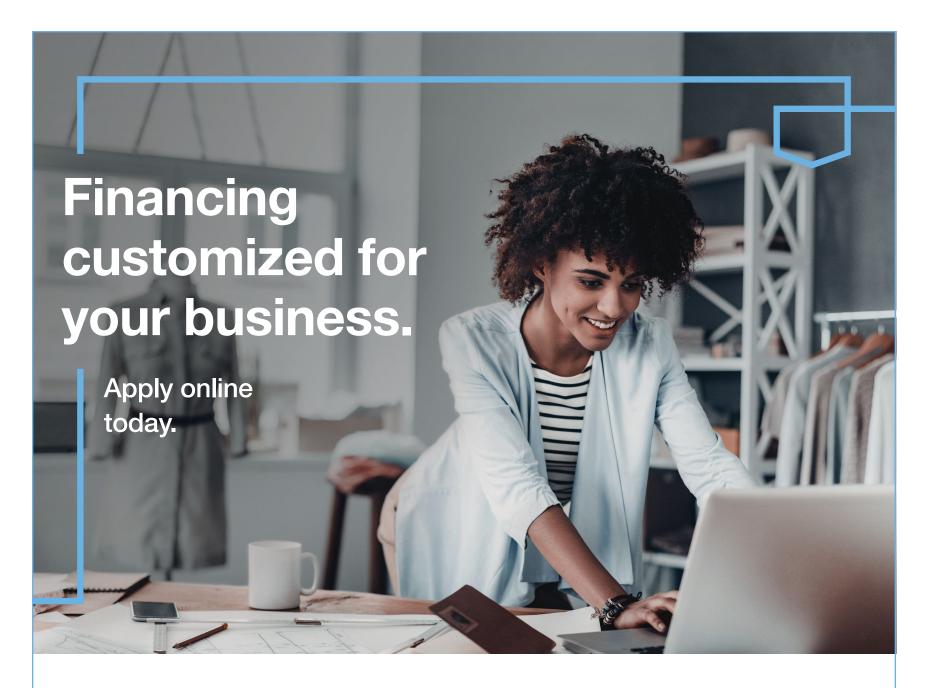
Jade needed around-the-clock aid. Pachecho became her personal care assistant, earning about \$11 an hour from the state. They were destitute.

When Jade rose to the top of Little Earth's waiting list in 2012, it seemed their luck had finally turned around. Instead, the housing manager took immediate issue with the women's many visitors, Pachecho says. Her daughter was housebound. Family and friends were always coming and going, but Little Earth accused them of dealing drugs, she says.

Then Jade died at 32. She never woke up from a surgery to replace a stent in her temple.

Little Earth wanted Pachecho to move from the townhomes to the apartments. They were the rougher section of the projects, seat of some of the highest overdose rates in Hennepin County, where six people were shot in May. Pachecho refused. Little Earth locked her out, dumping her belongings in the trash.

Pachecho sent her granddaughter to live with her father in Richfield, then took up residence at the Wall, where her cash



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and IDs were stolen, and her 17-year-old dog was abducted.

"This is not my life," she says. "I haven't seen my granddaughter in three weeks. My dog is gone. My house is gone. This is everything I own."

She spends her time sitting in a lawn chair, paging through Game of Thrones—an escape-while she guards what she has left.

Just then Captain Jack Sparrow, a perennial mayoral candidate, delivers a packet of information. It lays out a reductive theory of how tiny houses and community gardens could solve homelessness in Minneapolis. She's mildly amused

by the Disney pirate's business card stapled to the front.

At the southernmost end of the Wall lives 29-year-old Ashley Murphy, once Pachecho's neighbor in Little Earth. She wears a sweat-slicked ponytail and a Subway T-shirt from a former job.

Murphy provoked Little Earth's ire last July, when she invited her homeless sisterin-law to stay. The sister-in-law sparred with neighbors in shouting matches that frequently brought police to their doorstep. The housing manager also accused Murphy of getting high in front of her daughters, she says. Only by passing several urine analyses did she avoid losing them to Child Protection.

Murphy begged Little Earth to let her leave voluntarily. An eviction would permanently mar her record. Little Earth was unmoved. The family has been on the streets ever since

They backpacked for about a year, swinging through Wisconsin, Iowa, and South Dakota, sometimes staving with relatives while she cleaned Marriott Hotels in return for discount lodging. They just returned to Minneapolis in August.

Murphy sought entry to Mary Jo's family shelter downtown. But the corners of her bunk beds were spotted with foul-smelling black scum, signs of a potential bedbug infestation, she says. She chose to take her chances at the Wall.

In the mornings she showers at Catholic Charities Opportunity Center, then clocks in to work at a hotel she won't name. After work, she searches for an apartment.

"I'm a hard worker. When you show that to your employers, they will hire you back,"



EMILY UTNE

Murphy says confidently. "I tell everybody this is just a state of mind. Make it temporary. Bust your ass."

As she speaks, wailing emits from the tent next door. An agitated young woman has been awake for several days in a row. Her boyfriend screams at her to get out.

A security volunteer, bare-chested but for a fluorescent yellow vest, crouches to peer inside. He directs the woman to a folding chair beside the Natives Against Heroin tent in the center of the camp. There she sits, breathing deep, trembling breaths, as she wipes her hair back from a tear-streaked face and tries to smoke a cigarette.

III. 'THAT POISON FROM THE CITIES'

n a sweltering morning just before Labor Day, the Wall is slow to stir. Volunteers prepare a spread of Starbucks coffee and pastry crumble. It's gone after only a handful have eaten.

Some days donations are abundant. Residents have their pick of shopping carts full of Jimmy John's subs, salads, and fresh fruit. Other times volunteers must ration, delivering food and water to the families with children and seniors gathered on the camp's north end before anyone else may eat.

Of the dizzying collage of street outreach workers, volunteer nurses, and city public works employees who flow through the Wall emptying trash bins, cleaning portable toilets, and collecting used needles, one group maintains a constant presence: Natives Against Heroin. ("Just say nah.")

It was founded by 53-year-old James Allen Cross, a long-limbed, hawk-eyed man who



EMILY UTNE

emerged from 22 years in federal prison with a repugnance for the drugs he once sold to his own people. He prowls the camp, talking addicts down from hallucinations and chasing off riffraff who cruise by shouting disparaging things about Native Americans, provoking the young men to fight.

He wants to make sure the area stays neat. When outsiders look closely, they'll see Native people living in tidy rows, keeping the lawn clean even when they have little else.

The law of the camp is NAH's to enforce. Users receive the same sanctuary as everyone else, but traffickers get the boot. The group has no qualms about using Facebook to shame drug dealers for trucking "that poison from the cities" to the reservations up north.

"Not everybody here is on drugs-at all—but there are a lot of people that do drugs," says Cross' brother, Greg Franson, gesturing to a tent where a skeletal silhouette raises a syringe to the light. "Some of them are doing drugs because they're here. Our Native pride, we call it, doesn't feel good living in a tent.

"To most people, this is a disgrace. They drive by and say, 'Look at those damn Indians.' It's hard having to police our own, you know what I'm saying? But if we don't do it, this would be crazy."

A tremendous effort goes into lightening the mood. There's jocular "John John" Martin, limping on a boot from getting shot at Little Earth, who has hugs for everyone destined to cross his path. And Fabian Jones, who was homeless 10 years prior to recently entering residential group housing, encouraging hope with his example.

"I hear the ladies call you 'Meals on Wheels!" Cross teases a grandfather rolling by in a wheelchair.

At lunch, Cross triumphantly drives down the sidewalk that runs through camp, 50 pizzas stuffed in his back seat. Kids ride scooters alongside.

Twenty-nine-year-old Ezra Watson lives with a different kind of hunger. He's been on his own since he turned 18, jettisoned from his mother's house to fend for himself without much preparation for adulthood. He got his first felony for a burglary at 22. It's shadowed his every attempt to find a job or an apartment.

Life got serious when his daughter was born four years ago. He realized he had to show up. Watson found work washing dishes at the Big Bowl Chinese Express in Golden Valley and Edina, scrubbing his way from \$9.50 an hour to \$10.25 over four years. He couch-hopped with friends, his daughter-and later a son-by his side.

"The only thing I've been able to do consistently is work. That's never been a problem," Watson says, chewing on a pineapple slice from a corner store fruit cup. "Everything else has been in disarray."

Child Protection accused him of abuse. Watson denies it. Physicians found no evidence, he says, but the kids wound up in foster care nevertheless. Soon after he fell to Percocet, and eventually heroin. Driftless with depression, obsessed with chasing highs, he quit his job. It's been a long time since he's seen his children.

Watson says he gave up heroin for about 30 days last December after his girlfriend was arrested on an old warrant. He resumed using upon her release.

"We're what you'd call co-dependent users," he says matter-of-factly. "When she was in jail, that's when I got a chance to do what I wanted to do, which was to remain sober. I know if I did it then, I could do it now. It's just that now it's a little bit harder. It's like a monkey on my back."

Camping at the Wall allows him to remove himself from friends with destructive impulses. Others visit nearly every day, encouraging him to seek treatment. It gives him hope.

Todd Weldon, 48, has every reason to hate heroin just as much. His eldest son overdosed on July 1. His girlfriend struggles with addiction as well. He arrived in camp after spending the winter in an abandoned garage off Lake Street.

"I pray every night that she can get over it, because she's not the same.... It's getting to that point where I'm gonna have to make a decision. But my word is my loyalty. And I gave her my word that I would stick by her, that I would be there."

Weldon longs for the "laid-back life": a comfortable bed in a private room, where he needn't worry about being robbed. He thinks it's wrong for shelters to turn a man away when it's 10 degrees below, even if he fails the breathalyzer at the door.

People feel like they have nothing to live for, much less get clean for, when they're left to the streets so long they can no longer fathom a better life, he says.

He has a dark and distant look about him. a permanent scowl that comes with the pain in his thickly bandaged hand, recently infected from a gash running nail to knuckle. He doesn't remember how it happened.

IV. 'IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE FORGOTTEN'

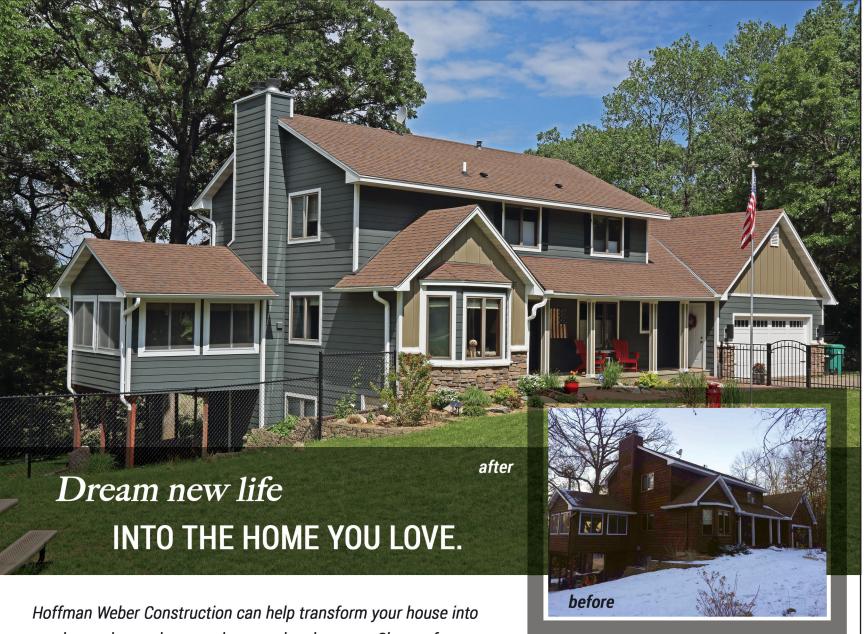
he Tuesday after Labor Day, a big tent with a peppermint top was erected across East Franklin Avenue, on the lawn of the American Indian Community Development Corporation. It's where county nurses provide bare-bones triage. Three mobile showers are parked alongside.

Most everybody at the Wall is getting assessed for shelter programs. The county's Office to End Homelessness is responsible for matching people to housing. Once units become available, outreach workers are sent to connect the lucky chosen. It's helpful to have so many of Minneapolis' homeless in one place.

But all many residents know is they've signed up with somebody carrying a clipboard, and it's been weeks without followup. As winter looms, city officials have suggested temporarily relocating everyone to vacant warehouses, or seting up heated tents. People still worry the camp will be razed with or without meaningful help.

Trinity "Tiny Bree" Bellanger is proud to say she's trying to survive on her own. She's 18, with long black hair, thick eyeliner, and skinny jeans fashionably cut. Her dad's in





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prison for something he claims he didn't do. Her mom moved to Wisconsin after leaving her with her grandmother in White Earth when she was 10 months old.

She's given her doting grandmother the runaround all her life, Bellanger says. At 13 she got caught with marijuana and cigarettes at school, and was locked up in the Circle Back Center for juvenile offenders with chemical dependency problems. When her sister died two years ago from an apparent overdose, Bellanger turned to cocaine, meth, and heroin to silence the grief.

There was nothing else for her to do on the reservation, she says. So she moved to Minneapolis, where she avoids hard drugs, unwilling to take the chance they could be cut with something deadly.

Two months ago she came to the encampment when there were just four tents. A warrant for fighting caught up with her, leading to 30 days in jail. She's determined to show her family she can do better.

"I wanna show them I can sober up, get my own apartment, get a job, go back to school. Growing up, I always wanted to be an Ojibwe teacher, because I know how to bead, talk some of the language, and I know a little bit about the history. Because I know my culture is dying, as you can see. I'm still young. There would be hope if I could get my life situated out here in the streets."

She empties her backpack of a morass of beaded jewelry, untangling each piece to show its delicate craftsmanship-thunderbird earrings, kaleidoscope medallions.

A 4-year-old girl in a cotton candy Trolls shirt sits in the long grass by the road, full of curiosity. She's a cheeky orb of joy, all touch, no words. Her name is Chanzi, and she and her mother. Mayda Dupris, were also among the Wall's first residents.

The Dupris had a house in Sioux Falls not long ago. But Mavda's ex-husband was an alcoholic. He cheated on her with her sister, so she beat him up. She was convicted of simple assault and sentenced to probation. Her public defender advised her to leave South Dakota.

Mother and daughter moved to the People Serving People

shelter in downtown Minneapolis. If they stayed 45 days, they would become eligible for a temporary, reduced-rate apartment.

It wasn't easy. Other children hit Chanzi at school, and their parents antagonized Mayda through breakfast, lunch, and dinner, she says. There was friction in the hallways, and they nearly came to blows in an elevator. Mayda chose to leave rather than risk going to jail again.

She turned to the Wall. But eventually, People Serving People came through. Mavda was rewarded for her sobriety and felony-free record with a small apartment near Portland and Franklin avenues. She'll have a year to establish a good rental and employment historystepping stones to finding permanent housing on her own.

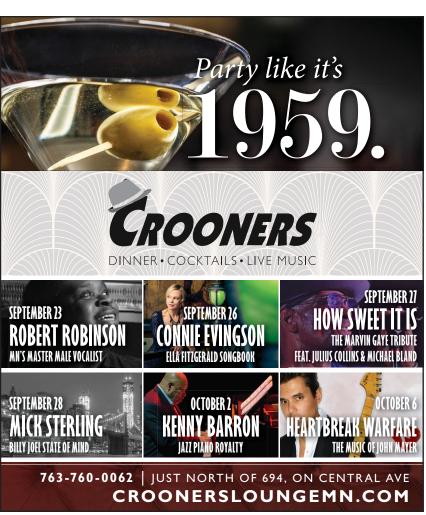
Two days after moving into their new home, Mayda and Chanzi are back at the Wall, visiting the friends they made at the lowest point of their lives.

"I just come back to see whoever I know, say, 'Hey, I've got a house. Come over if you wanna cook something, if you wanna take a shower, wash your clothes.' It's not like I've forgotten."

She does this for the memory of her grandfather, a son of the South Dakota Dupris credited with saving the Black Hills' buffalo from extinction at the turn of the century. Their work survives in an enduring herd at Custer State Park.

"He always told me, 'This could be your family," Mayda says, blinking through tears as she motions an open palm across the camp. "When you have your home, when you sit down, offer them to come in."





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BY BETH DOOLEY

t's been a good year for our region's wild rice. The harvest is early, and the kernels are plump and prodigious. On an early September morning, just before sunrise, I left the Twin Cities to join Nick VanderPuy at his rice camp on a remote lake north of Hayward, Wisconsin. Every year, from late August through late September, Nick hauls in about 200 pounds of green rice that he'll process into 100 pounds of finished rice for friends and neighbors, and to stock his larder

Wild rice isn't really rice at all, but the kernel of a wild grass, indigenous to northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and parts of Canada. It's nothing like the shiny, cultivated black paddy rice that sells for about half the price in supermarkets, bait shops, and gas stations along the highways heading north. For indigenous people, wild rice is both a staple and sacred food that is served at all traditional ceremonies and celebrations. Cracked and cooked into a cereal, it nourishes infants and the infirm; its name in Ojibwe, manoomin, means "good berry" or "good seed." In Ojibwe origin stories, a series of prophesies led the tribes from the East to the food that grows on water.

Nick has been ricing for most of his adult life, and now, in his mid-60s, mentors vounger ricers and novices like me. On the shore where we meet, he's spread the green rice out on a tarp to dry in the sun. Flocks of red-winged black birds swoop into the piles plucking out rice worms. I pick up a kernel and peel back the hard, spiky cover to reveal a soft chartreuse grain, slightly grassy and sweet.

At season's end, with the help of several friends, Nick will roast the rice in huge aluminum kettles over an open fire while stirring it with paddles. They'll hull it in a rotating drum to remove the chaff. In traditional Ojibwe ricing ceremonies, an adolescent male or young woman wearing special moccasins dances on top of the rice to the beat of a drum to crush the hull. To finish the process, Nick tosses the rice in big, flat birchbark baskets so the heavier kernels drop while the loosened chaff flies off.

At the shore, Nick hands me a pouch of tobacco and we put a pinch into the lake-an offering-before pushing our canoe into the warm, clear water and heading toward the tall gossamer green waving us forward. Since the early 1900s, the Wisconsin and Minnesota DNR and

WILD WILD MIDWEST

A day on the rice camps of northern Wisconsin



Nick VanderPuy has been ricing for most of his adult life.

the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission have protected the many rice lakes and riverbeds from pollution with strict regulations against boating, fertilizers, pesticides, and septic tank runoff. Most recently, however, the Minnesota Senate passed a bill to strike a longstanding state rule that limits sulfate discharge

into waters where wild rice grows and restricts the ability of state regulators to set another standard. Over the past 10 years, invasive species and a series of catastrophic floods have damaged rice beds, a trend that may continue as climate change brings more frequent and severe rainstorms and warmer temperatures.

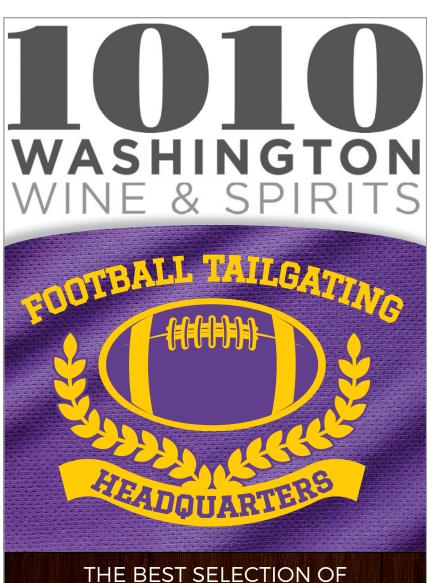
Like the proverbial canary in the coalmine, wild rice will not grow if the water is out of balance. When we lose the wild rice, we lose much of the wildlife that depends on it, too: fish, ducks, geese, and the tiny rice birds that hop along the lily pads and matted stalks.

But for now, time stands still as the sun arcs over the expansive, cloudless sky. The only sounds are of Nick poling the canoe through the tall grass and of the tap-tap of my "knockers" sending seed heads into the boat. Nick stands, balanced in the stern, looking out for patches where the stalks arch under the weight of their kernels. Using the long, tapered cedar knockers, I bend the grass over the boat with one stalk and tap its head with the other. Husks rain down, along with spiders and wriggling gray rice worms that continue to bite and itch long after I've left the boat.

Across the water, as we swish along, my tap-tapping is echoed by other ricers, bent to their own rhythm. A fish jumps; a goose honks in the ancient music of the harvest. Wild rice grows only in this particular watershed, within the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabeg. To this day, harvesting is restricted to residents of Minnesota and Wisconsin who must first obtain a license. It's so significant to the Ojibwe that the lands with the best rice stands are reserved for ricing by Native Americans alone. Nick and I dip our hands into the water to cool our necks and sip from the clean, clear lake.

Shadows lengthen and we head to shore—offering another pinch of tobacco as thanks-and pull the canoe, now heavy with rice, up onto land. We scoop out our harvest to spread on those tarps. Later this fall, after Nick has finished the rice, I'll stock the pantry for soups, stews, and pilafs.

When cooked, this wild rice tastes of the clear, flinty water, of smoke, of the woods. It's ready in about 20 minutes, unlike cultivated paddy rice that requires soaking and a good 45 to 50 minutes of simmering. Though it may seem expensive at about \$15 to \$20 a pound compared to the \$5 per pound cultivated rice commands, its distinctive flavor makes it well worth it. And it presents the question of what we're willing to pay for an indigenous food that grows without fertilizers or chemicals—food that supports wildlife, is sacred, nutritious, satisfying, and delicious. Food that tastes of this remarkable place. @



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BASIC WILD RICE

Makes: 4 cups; serves 8

True wild rice cooks quickly, but no two batches are the same. You need to be vigilant and start watching the pot after about 15 minutes. The age of the rice, how well it's been parched, and how long it has been stored all determine how long it will take to cook.

1 cup real wild rice 4 cups water (or enough to cover the rice in the pot by about 2 inches) Salt to taste

Wash the rice thoroughly by putting it into a colander and running it under cold water until the water runs clear. Turn the wild rice, water, and salt into a large, heavy saucepan, set over a high flame, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for about 15 to 25 minutes. Start checking after about 15 minutes; it's ready when the rice has puffed and the kernels are just tender and begin to curl. Drain and toss with any of the following:

hazelnut oil dried cranberries seasoned salt splash of maple syrup splash of apple cider vinegar

Then enjoy.

COLOSSAL CAFE CLOSING IN SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS

astspring, one of Minneapolis' most ironically named restaurantsthe 15-seat Colossal Cafe—moved from its original south Minneapolis space. While it still wasn't exactly colossal, with roughly twice the seating, snagging a seat and ordering a clever weekend special did get ever so slightly easier.

But shortly after moving, Colossal's tenure on 38th Street has already come to an end. The cafe is bowing out of South as co-owner John Tinucci plans to retire from the food and drink game, meaning you have until the end of September to scarf one last scratch-made strata or frittata.

The good news is that flappers will continue flying off the griddle at Colossal's Como and Grand Avenue locations, which the cafe crew plans to keep unchanged. And while you won't be able to get those larger-than-life pancakes on 38th anymore, it sounds like the breakfast torch will be carried on: Standish Cafe is taking over the address. -EMILY CASSEL



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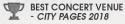








7TH ST ENTRY UP NEXT



IRSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20



DIRTY REVIVAL







AND LIZ VICE RIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21



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GUERILLA TOSS

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THE FLORISTS
TUESDAY SEDTERATOR



LAWRENCE W/ JOE HERTLER & THE RAINBOW SEEKERS, VICTORIA CANAL





ARTHUR BUCK W/ KRAIG JARRET JOHNSON



PALACE THEATRE UP NEXT





SHAKEY GRAVES THE TOUR X9 WORLD TOUR W/ THE WILD REEDS





01

07

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE W/ CHARLY BLISS (OCT. 5 SHOW SOLD OUT)



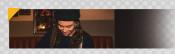
UMPHREY'S MCGEE W/ AQUEOUS







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FRANKIE COSMOS W/ LOMELDA, STEF CHURA WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

DJANGO DJANGO W/ THE SHACKS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

W/ yOya, LOUD SUN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

VAN WILLIAM

OHMME

FALL 2018 TOUR

W/ PAUL CHERRY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

HONNE LOVE ME/LOVE ME NOT

BLACK JOE LEWIS &

THE HONEYBEARS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

TURF CLUB UP NEXT



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W/ SONTALK MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24



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18 CITYPAGES.COM SEPTEMBER 19-25, 2018 SEPTEMBER 19-25, 2018 CITYPAGES.COM 19



FRIDAY Red Eye says goodbye with Britney Spears p. 21

SATURDAY A Jucy Lucy blowout at Blue Door p. 23

SUNDAY A sausage party at Sociable p. 23

WEDNESDAY 9.19

THEATER FOR COLORED GIRLS

PENUMBRA THEATRE

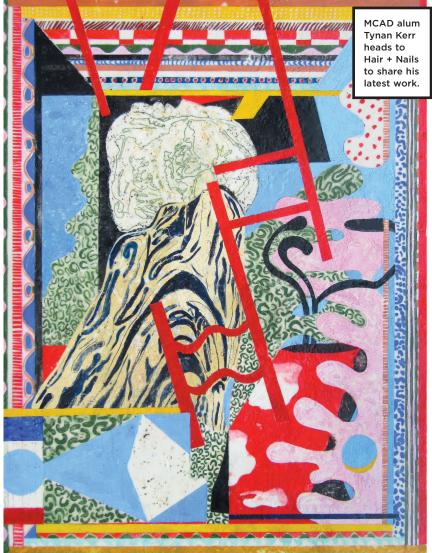
There could hardly be a better time, or a better venue, to revisit Ntozake Shange's Obie-winning 1974 play, which she called a "choreopoem." Twenty poems set to music and dance are performed by a multigenerational cast of women of color, drawing attention to issues of domestic violence and sexual assault while celebrating the healing energy of women's solidarity. For colored girls, which made Shange the second black woman (after Raisin in the Sun author Lorraine Hansberry) to have a play on Broadway, emerged from the same Black Arts Movement that produced Penumbra itself. Artistic director Sarah Bellamy and her father, Lou Bellamy, are co-directing; Ananya Chatteriea (Ananya Dance Theatre) choreographs. "The same rhetoric that is used to establish the Black Aesthetic," Shange said in 1979, "we must use to establish a women's aesthetic, which is to say that those parts of reality that are ours, those things about our bodies, the cycles of our lives that have been ignored for centuries in all castes and classes of our people, are to be dealt with now." 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. \$15-\$40. 270 N. Kent St., St. Paul; 651-224-3180. Through October 14 - JAY GABLER

THURSDAY 9.20

FASHION/FESTIVAL

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Fashion Week MN arrives twice a year to keep Minnesotans looking good with a variety of parties, pop-up shops, special sales, and more at studios, boutiques, and bars around the cities. The 10-day celebration is going big this year, with an expanded schedule featuring over 20 different happenings. Highlights include Fresh Traditions, which showcases Hmong designers;



TYNAN KERR, BROKEN LADDER DANCE

Full Fashion Panic, MCAD's annual runway show with crazy looks inspired by manga, anime, and cosplay; pieces by Nigerian-Minnesotan designer Aisha Umar of Fulbekloset at the Uptown VFW; a spooky catwalk hosted by the macabre Conspiracy of Strange Girls; and HWMR: Leaders of the New Skool, an outdoor fashion show honoring black excellence curated by Richard Moody. Pop-up shops include a vintage/midcentury market in the Food Building and a fashion-forward night at Radisson Red. Other events include podcast tapings,

a high-drama runway helmed by local photographer Shelly Mosman, and so much more. Find tickets and more info at fashionweekmn.com. **Through September 30 –JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

COMEDY DAN SODER

ACME COMEDY CO.

Comedian Dan Soder had no intention of pursuing a career in his collegiate fields of study: journalism and political science. "I went to the University of Arizona," explains the Colorado native. "I got the degree for my mom, but jumped into standup when I was 21." He was interested in those subjects, though. "I wanted to know how it worked," he says, "how media and the government function." He also picked up a useful skill set for his comedy career. "Print journalism taught me how to write a nice, tight, concise lede, which is really just a premise." Fifteen years on, Soder has maintained the same style, but lately has been looking to go deeper with his material. "The best part about standup," he says, "is you keep evolving. I'm more comfortable going to darker places now, which I've always wanted to do. It's nice not being afraid to say, 'Fuck it, I want to talk about stuff that I want to talk about." 18+. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393.

Through Saturday -P.F. WILSON

ART

ILLUMINATE THE LOCK: RETURNING THE RIVER

UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS LOCK AND DAM

The Upper St. Anthony Falls will be transformed into an interdisciplinary public artwork this weekend for the second annual Illuminate the Lock. With performance, music, and visual projections, the no-longer-operating lock and dam becomes an immersive experience of creative delights. This year's piece, Returning the River, includes a story written by Molly Van Avery, who will be narrating from a boat in the lock chamber. Ritika Ganguly will sing from a higher location, Dameun Strange will provide the soundscape, and there will be projections on the water created by Mike Hoyt. Just as a warning: This performance isn't for people who are afraid of heights (though it is all perfectly safe). Regardless, it is pretty darn cool to see this large piece of engineering repurposed for a unique art experience. 8 to 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Free. 1 Portland Ave., Minneapolis.

Through Saturday —SHEILA REGAN

FRIDAY

SHAATRANGA: WOMEN WEAVING WORLDS

O'SHAUGHNESSY AUDITORIUM

With this piece, Ananya Dance Theatre's fifth in a series on the theme "work women do," indigo and one of its global manifestations, blue jeans, are the drivers of the work. "Shaatranga" means



V. PAUL VIRTUCCIO

"seven colors" in Bangla. The work by this company of color seeks to expand the notion of indigo/blue metaphorically in order to enlighten viewers on the array of ways women exist in the world. That the company, led by artistic director and choreographer Ananya Chatterjea, accomplishes this through movement, music, lighting, and media is a feat in itself. Fierce and focused, the dancers transform the material into magical dance works of uncompromising force and community. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$19-\$29. 2004 Randolph Ave., St. Paul; 651-690-6700. **Through Saturday —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

FRIDAY 9.21

PERFORMANCE HER'S A OUEEN

RED EYE THEATER

All good things must come to an end, and so it is with sadness that we say goodbye to collaborative team Miriam Must and Steve Busa, who are retiring from running Red Eve Theater after doing so for decades. It will also be Red Eve's final performance in its current Loring Park space, which the theater has called home since 1989. They're not going out without a bang, however, so you should definitely see Her's a Queen, Neal Medyln's sendup of pop-culture and celebrity. Busa directed the piece, Must performs in it, and they'll be joined by a team of talented artists. In true Red Eye fashion, there will be absurdity and weirdness, with bears, nuns, and Britney Spears all making appearances. A goodbye party after the final show will send the two artists off in style. 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sunday, September 23. \$20; \$10 students; pay-as-able Sunday; \$35-\$50 closing night (\$15 party-only). 15 W. 14th St., Minneapolis; 612-870-0309.

Through September 29 - SHEILA REGAN

COMEDY

HANNIBAL BURESS

HISTORIC STATE THEATRE

In addition to being a standup comic, Hannibal Buress is an actor, activist, writer, and producer. Sometimes the streams cross, as they did a few years back when a bit about Bill Cosby talking down to black youth while being accused of rape sparked an interest in

claims against Cosby. Buress has found great success as a headlining standup, moving from clubs to theaters in just a few years. This past year, he did a run of shows at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland. "I went to the store by my house and bought eight deodorants," he told an audience there. "And the guy working there said, 'Oh, you're very stinky today, huh?' I'm like, 'No, man. As long as I don't die soon this is an excellent purchase. I'm always going to need deodorant." He then reflected on the merits of buying in bulk. "That's probably the worst time to die," he said, "when you've just bought in bulk. 'Please don't kill me, I just bought seven months' worth of toilet paper. It was a good deal, I was thinking of my family." 7:30 p.m. \$37-\$47. 805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. -p.f. wilson

THEATER

THE AGITATORS

PARK SQUARE THEATRE

The Agitators is a fascinating historical drama that retraces the evolving relationship between Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, two tireless advocates of equality. The Mat Smartpenned work offers a grounded perspective on momentous events in U.S. history, including the Civil War and its aftermath as racism took on new forms following the abolition of slavery. Likewise, the entrenched sexism of our society made female emancipation a distant dream. In their mutual struggles against bigotry, Anthony and Douglass forged a friendship that could be as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ▶

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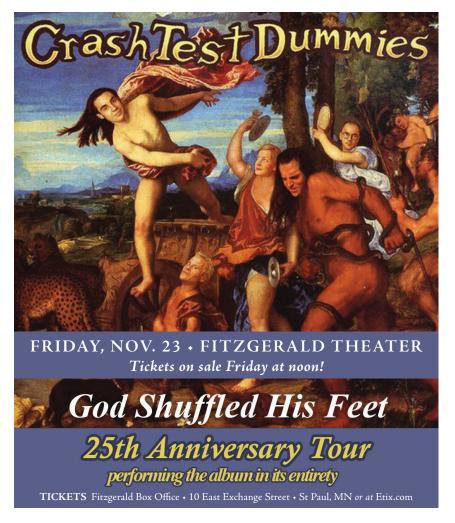
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CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ▶

tempestuous as it was enduring. Directed by Signe V. Harriday, this regional premiere stars the exceptional duo of Emily Gunyou Halaas as Anthony and Mikell Sapp as Douglas, manifesting two social crusaders whose remarkable relationship remains a model for respecting our differences even as we push toward a common goal. The show is in previews through September 27. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, plus Wednesday, September 25-26; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$25-\$60. 20 W. Seventh Place, St. Paul; 651-291-7005. Through October 28 - BRAD RICHASON

ART/GALLERY TYNAN KERR: **NUMBERS PUSHERS**

HAIR AND NAILS GALLERY

Bold and gorgeously rendered like a Matisse gone haywire, the work of MCAD alum Tynan Kerr (who now lives in L.A.) startles with color, shape, and the juxtaposition of recognizable forms with abstractions. He uses pigment bound in beeswax and egg yolk to achieve his eye-popping effects. In addition to paintings, Kerr also delves into notions of technologies ancient and modern with chainsaw carvings (coated in neon wax and plaster) and a potato-powered device. He shows in Minneapolis on a fairly regular basis, but this exhibition takes his experiments in materiality and intellectual inquiry in new directions. There will be an opening reception from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, September 21. Free. 2222 1/2 E. 35th St., Minneapolis; 612-229-0585.

Through October 20 — CAMILLE LEFEVRE

THEATER IS GOD IS

MIXED BLOOD THEATRE

Subversive satire *Is God Is* delivers enough bloodletting for a spaghetti western while simultaneously pondering provocative questions on racial inequity, class division, familial obligation, and the morality of vengeance. Echoing ancient tragedies, *Is God Is* follows the wrathful path of African American twin sisters intent on inflicting brutal retribution upon a father who nearly incinerated them as children and left their mother on the verge of death. Lavered with thoughtprovoking subtext to counterbalance the wanton carnage, Is God Is earned playwright Alesha Harris an Obie Award earlier this year for a production at Soho Rep that also garnered awards for the headlining cast of Alfie Fuller



The Duluth-based Aune sisters have gained international attention.

KIRSTEN AUNE

and Dame-Jasmine Hughes. The latter will reprise her role for Mixed Blood Theatre under the direction of Nataki Garrett, reforming a collaborative duo that previously won acclaim for Pussy Valley and An Octoroon. Is God Is looks to be an exhilarating production, tallying the casualties of revenge and finding humanity in the carnage. 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. Free first-come, first-served tickets; \$35 for guaranteed seating. 1501 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-6131.

Through October 14 -BRAD RICHASON

SATURDAY 9.22

FESTIVAL/DOGS HOUNDS AND HOPS

CITY PAGES PARKING LOT

For the second year, City Pages is taking some time to hang out in our parking lot with pups. This afternoon festival will feature a variety of attractions for dogs and humans alike. Meet with canine-focused organizations and businesses, including purveyors of adorable fashions (Lucy & Co.) and tasty eats (Raw Bistro Pet Fare, NutriSource Pet Food), plus the self-improvement experts of the Twin Cities Obedience Training Club. Famous dogs, aka the best kind of celebrity, will also be

stopping by. Meet Ego, a border collie who spends his weekends hanging out in nature and sleeping in a tent, and local French bulldog Gus Gus, whose Instagram @GusGusintheCity features adventures all around the Twin Cities. There will be food truck eats, including Thai Thai Streets Food, 9 Yum Yum Ice Cream, and barbecue from the Fabled Rooster. We'll have beer from 612Brew, as well as non-alcoholic options. Find tickets and more info at houndsandhops.citypages.com. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$10; \$5 kids (under 5 are free). 802 N. Second St., Minneapolis; 612-372-3700. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

ART/MUSEUM

ALISON AUNE + KIRSTEN AUNE: COLORS FROM THE NORTH

AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

The color and pattern explosion happening at the American Swedish Institute (currently via the marvelous Gudrun Sjödén exhibition) is complemented by this show of work by the Aune sisters from Duluth. How craft and heritage intersect in art is on view here. So are the influences of folk art and contemporary Scandinavian design. Alison paints; Kirsten works with stencils and screen printing. Delightful patterns and vibrant colors

are integral to their oeuvre. Like Sjödén, the Aunes also have a growing international following. There will be an artists' reception on Wednesday, October 3, from 6 to 7 p.m. 2600 Park Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-871-4907.

Through October 28 — CAMILLE LEFEVRE

BARHOPPING

10 YEAR ANNI-HOOTENANNY

BLUE DOOR PUB

The Twin Cities has a long, proud history with the Jucy Lucy, a glorious burger, served at several rival businesses around town, that is stuffed with molten lava-style cheese. In recent years, the burgers have hit a new level of popularity, thanks in part to Blue Door's creative "Blucy" menu, which goes well beyond the original American cheese and fried onion options. Saturday celebrates the 10-year anniversary of the first Blucy, and Blue Door is celebrating with an all-day party stuffed with fun at its University of Minnesota location. There will be live music from the likes of Purple Funk Metropolis, rockers Porch Knights, psych rockers General B and the Wiz, and DJ DeadMusik, among others. Beyond the Blucys, there will also be wing and beer specials, plus a special blueberry honey IPA by Indeed on tap. Giveaways and other fun more festivities round out the event. 2 to 10 p.m. Free. 1514 Como Ave. SE, Minneapolis; 612-367-4964. —LOREN GREEN

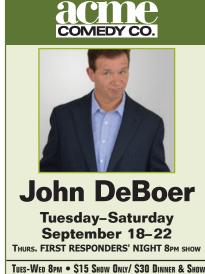
SUNDAY 9.23

BEST OF THE WURST 2018

SOCIABLE CIDER WERKS

The Best of the Wurst is a parking-lot party featuring sausage and bratwurst specially crafted for the annual event. The all-vou-can-eat sampling festival will include cased creations from Borough, Red Stag, Ingebretsen's, Fig + Farro, Lowry Hill Meats, and New Bohemia, among others. FairVote Minnesota will oversee ranked choice voting in order to pick the supreme sausage. Nothing pairs better with sausage than beer; August Schell Brewing Company will be serving their Oktoberfest, 1905 VT, and Witbier. The music of Johnny Cash, performed by local cover artists Church of Cash. will help revelers dance off some of those meat sweats in between courses. Find tickets and more info at www. bestofthewurst.org. 2 to 6 p.m. \$25; \$40 (includes two beers and a gift); \$75 VIP. 1500 Fillmore St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-758-0105. —LOREN GREEN







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SAT, OCT 6



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FRI, OCT 12



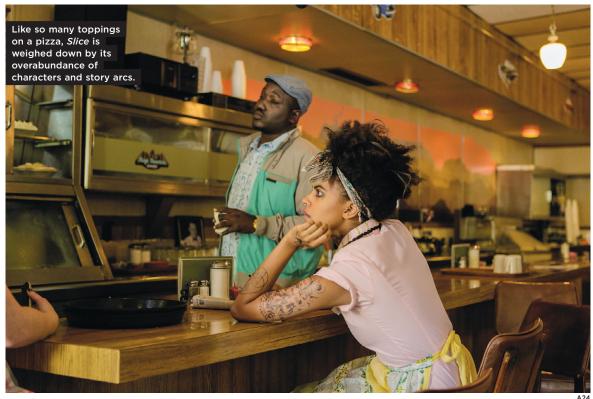
WITH MARTIN ZELLAR
Guest Daisy Dillman singing Crosby,
Stills and Nash Accoustic Set

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CUT

Slice is the rare flop from the studios of A24

BY TONY LIBERA

hen it comes to movie studios, A24 typically has the Midas touch. This year alone they've found success with Lean on Pete, First Reformed, Hereditary, and Eighth Grade. But as we all know, even the best can't bat a thousand. With Slice, a horror-comedy released digitally on September 11, they're looking at a colossal swing-and-a-miss.

There were plenty of reasons to be excited about this movie, even beyond the studio pedigree. Slice looked to be the kind of dumb-fun popcorn flick that's perfect for the lead-up to Halloween, and a roster made up of both young talents and comedic staples seemed a perfect fit. Yet from its direction to its acting, Slice feels surprisingly amateur.

For an 82-minute movie, there is entirely too much going on here. Slice opens with a pizza delivery guy named Sean Ham-

merschmit (writer/director Austin Vesely) getting his throat slit on a strange-looking man's doorstep. After opening credits roll, we're informed via archival footage that our setting, the city of Kingfisher, is home to over 40,000 ghosts due to a mass grave at the old Halcyon Days asylum. In an effort to beautify the city, Mayor Tracy (Chris Parnell) moves the ghost population to their own neighborhood west of town.

We hop back into the present where things get really convoluted. We're introduced to plucky reporter Sadie Sheridan (Rae Gray) and her habitually late photographer Jackson (played by Stranger Things' Joe Keery). Sadie thinks there's more to the murder than the mayor is letting on. Next we meet Astrid, Sean's old flame, who upon learning about her ex's death heads back to her former job at Personal Pizza Base to get to the bottom of things. Her co-workers enter the picture. Two detectives arrive on the scene. A group of concerned women begins protesting the pizza place, which happens to have been built on the site of the old sanatorium. Then about halfway through the movie a werewolf named Dax Lycander (Chance Bennett aka Chance the Rapper) shows up.

To reiterate, this movie's runtime is an hour and 22 minutes.

As we muddle through the overabundance of characters and story arcs, we barely scratch the surface of what seems like a pretty novel world. Huge events unfold at breakneck speed. Filler-like a completely unnecessary drug subplot with no meaningful resolution—takes up large chunks of what should have been an even shorter movie were it not for the editing pace.

Plot wouldn't be as much of a problem if Slice had something else going for it, but this horror-comedy is not scary and almost never funny. Playing the pizza store manager, Paul Scheer is as underutilized as Parnell, and Hannibal Burress is in the

directed by Austin Vesely now available online

movie for one fleeting minute in a throwaway role. Laughs have to come

from a cast that doesn't seem to have either comedic chops or, in far too many cases, basic acting skills. Slice winds up feeling like an ultra-low-budget passion project some film-school kids made for yuks, not something distributed by an Oscar-winning company.

It now makes sense why A24 dropped Slice out of the blue online. The question is why they picked it up in the first place.



LITTLE WOMEN

Jungle's remix is smart and subversive



JAY GABLER

he book is not so much a novel," wrote critic Joan Acocella about Little Women, "as a sort of wad of themes and scenes and cultural wishes. It is more like the Mahabharata or the Old Testament."

That helps to explain why readers have kept returning to Louisa May Alcott's book for 150 years, always finding resonance. Kate Hamill's fascinating new adaptation, now onstage as the Jungle Theater's first-ever commissioned world premiere, is so true to the story's spirit while alive to the present day that it feels like Alcott somehow smuggled it across the centuries, as sharp as a file hidden in a cake.

No playwright could bring the sprawling novel to the stage without significant abbreviation, but Hamill has gone a step further and created what amounts to a remix. Plotlines are shifted and characters are sharpened; episodes are combined, and Marmie (Christina Baldwin, making a saint gratifyingly human) recedes as the four March girls come strongly to the fore.

Hamill captures those "little women's" essences so precisely that the world created by director Sarah Rasmussen will be instantly recognizable to anyone who has even a passing familiarity with the book.

Meg (Christine Weber) is the oldest, ready to fly the nest but already missing her youthful idylls. Amy (a hilarious Megan Burns) is the picture of pique, continually consternated with her family's departures from the status quo. Beth (played with

LITTLE WOMEN

Jungle Theater 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis Through October 21; 612-822-7063

stunning delicacy by Isabella Star LaBlanc) is the loving peacemaker.

The play, though, like the novel, is fundamentally the story of Jo. Here, C. Michael Menge absorbingly portrays a gender nonconformist in a world where that wasn't accepted, onstage in a world where it's starting to be. Jo and Laurie (Michael Hanna), who has his own discomfort with the era's gender roles, strike up an affectionate friendship of mutual permission: They recognize they can be themselves with one another.

This Little Women feels like the apotheosis of the art Rasmussen has wrought at the Jungle since 2016. That's crucially meant new stories with new artists, for new audiences-but it's also meant a reimagining of the Jungle's physical space. Here, set designer Chelsea M. Warren creates a warm but spare living-room set with a fireplace that remains symbolically stationary even as a turntable rotates beneath it.

That evocation of lives in search of shape and meaning fits with Hamill's accentuation of Jo as a writer. Jo is Alcott's alter ego in the semi-autobiographical novel, and the script celebrates the heroism of an author who captured women's complex lives in the Civil War era with such acute insight that it remains readily accessible. This play is amazing.











STREET Style

FAREWELL SUMMER Showing skin at Eat Street Festival. BY AMY GEE







ASHA OMAR

25, GRAD STUDENT

What are you wearing?

Thrifted skirt and bamboo purse, Steve Madden shoes, necklace from my dad.

Describe your style:

Comfy and chic.

Current style crush:

Zoë Kravitz.

Favorite purchase this year:

Zara baby-blue heels from a thrift store.

One thing in your closet you can't live without:

My headscarves on days that I don't want to do my hair.

BO DAVIS

27, INSURANCE ADVOCATE

What are you wearing?

Forever 21 overall jumpsuit, hat and bandeau top from Ragstock, H&M bag, shoes from Target.

Describe your style:

Simple and comfy. I like dark colors and I like to keep it flowy.

Current style crush:

Mimi Giek.

Favorite purchase this year:

A brown Banana Republic trench coat from Savers on Lake Street.

NIA MADISON

20, WORKS AT PIER ONE IMPORTS

What are you wearing?

My whole outfit is from Forever 21, bracelet from New York, bag from Hmong Village.

Describe your style:

Vintage, urban streetwear, less is more, mixing fabrics and textiles.

Current style crush?

Kehlani.

Favorite purchase this year?

An African head wrap I bought in Brooklyn.

One thing in your closet you can't live without?

My H&M blue puffy coat.







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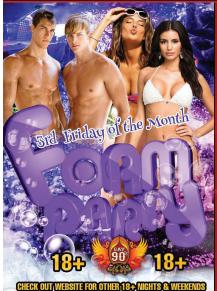
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GEMMA WARREN

L.A. WOMAN

Caroline Smith is now Your Smith, and her sound is as new as her name

BY ERIK THOMPSON

your name has rarely sounded so good.
Each of the four tracks on Bad Habit, the new EP from Your Smith (formerly known as Caroline Smith), represents a different point on a creative compass from an artist who has found her center.

eaving home and changing

Five years have passed since Smith's last album, *Half About Being a Woman*; in that time she moved from Minneapolis to Los Angeles and went through "loads and loads and loads of self-discovery." Within that upheaval, she found a voice that she'd long been searching for.

"Moving to L.A. was a huge transition," Smith says over the phone, fresh off a trip to Guitar Center to pick up a new pedal before band practice. "It was a hard thing to do, but it definitely helped push me as an artist. I've been settling in to L.A., settling in to what I want to do with my music, and who I want to be as an artist. Minneapolis is so comfortable. Leaving Minneapolis, and leaving that comfort, was the single greatest thing I did for my creative career."

Smith has lived in L.A. now for almost three years, but it took her a while to find a sound that reflected her true self. "I've written somewhere along the lines of 125

songs [since moving]. I've just been writing and writing and writing," Smith says. "I wrote an entire album that didn't end up getting released. It got mixed, there was a cover for it, and I just had this moment—I was in an airplane, and I was listening to it, just trying to choose a track order actually-and I just thought, 'This doesn't feel like me.' I felt like I was forcing it. It felt like I was releasing music because I was trying to adhere to a timeline that served my career, but it didn't serve the listeners to my music. That's what it was saying to me, and I just didn't want to be that type of artist. So, I didn't release it, and I went back to the drawing board."

Abandoning a completed album gave Smith the personal freedom to explore just what she wanted to say and how she wanted to sound, but it also made her question whether she still wanted to make music anymore at all.

"Scrapping the album freed me. I gave myself permission to write the music that I wanted to write," Smith says. "It was not like a magical moment when I scratched the entire album. It was an existential crisis, to put it lightly. I was totally fantasizing about leaving and about quitting. For me, personally, I really just had to be patient and unchain myself from the industry and what the industry was expecting of me. I had to let it go. I had to shed that completely to be free to make what was most genuine to me."

Smith wanted to ditch the R&B sound of her last album and pay homage to the smooth pop-rock of her youth. "I had decided that I didn't want to do R&B anymore. I was giving up on what I thought the industry wanted from me," she says. "So, I wanted to go back to what I grew up listening to. I was listening to a lot of Van Morrison at the time, a lot of Steely Dan, just trying to cleanse my palate."

Smith's concerns that her collaborators, the songwriting team Nicky Davey (who've written for the Internet and Syd), might not

be interested in this development were assuaged when they informed her that they were in a

Steely Dan cover band.

8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21

YOUR SMITH

First Avenue

"The three of us wrote 'Bad Habit' that day," Smith says. "That was the first song that I wrote as this unchained free woman. My publisher, Maria Egan, called me into her office, put the song on her speakers, put her hand on my knee and said, 'This is you. This is what you sound like. This is





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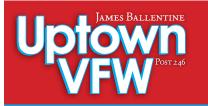
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MUSIC

your song.' And I was like, 'Wait, I could've just been *me* this whole time?'"

And indeed, *Bad Habit* is the celebratory sound of an artist figuring out who she is. It covers a lot of ground: The title track starts with a long drive from home to L.A., "The Spot" pulses with the joy of finding somewhere to call your own in a wild new environment, and "Debbie" reflects on a perspective-altering trip to Nicaragua with friends/collaborators Tommy English and Joe Janiak.

"The crickets in the background are genuinely crickets from the Nicaraguan jungle, because the doors were open when we were recording it," Smith says of "Debbie." "When I listen to it, it brings me back there. That was one of my favorite days of my life. Sharing it with the world is like me sharing a really precious memory of myself, where I felt happy and good for arguably the first time in two years."

The EP brilliantly blends polished L.A. pop with elements of the old-school Minneapolis Sound. "The roots of Minneapolis are so deep inside me. I feel extremely connected to Minneapolis, and it's a badge of honor that I wear proudly here in Los Angeles. Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis' influence is always going to come through," says Smith. "But it's alongside my other influences, like Paul Simon and Carole King and Jackson Browne. I was excited to start making this music because I felt like I had figured out a way where those influences can live in harmony, where it wasn't one or the other."

And with this new direction comes a new name: Your Smith. "At this point, I've been doing this for almost 10 years. I played Best New Bands in 2008 [as Caroline Smith and the Good Night Sleeps]," Smith reflects. "What happens when you are releasing music for 10 years is you are going through a lot of changes and feeling things out publicly, and making mistakes. With this new chapter in my life, I have a message that I want to send, and I know who I am. I just wanted to start with a fresh slate. Don't mistake me, this is who I am. But I didn't want to alienate anybody that knew who I was already. I wanted to be just Smith, but I wanted people to remember that I'm still your Smith."

But while her name has changed, Smith's music still pulses with an originality and honesty she hopes will continue to resonate with her longtime fans.

"If you look back at old photographs of yourself, you're always you, you just hadn't quite figured it out yet," Smith reflects. "Your Smith doesn't have it all figured out yet, either. But what I've accepted is that I'll never have it totally figured out. I'm just allowing the new space that I've created to keep growing, and learning from there."









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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "The flower doesn't dream of the bee. It blossoms and the bee comes." So says poet and philosopher Mark Nepo in The Book of Awakening. Now I'm transmitting his observation to you. I hope it will motivate you to expend less energy fantasizing about what you want and devote more energy to becoming the beautiful, useful, irresistible presence that will attract what you want. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to make plans to produce very specific blossoms.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Budi Waseso, the former head of the Indonesian government's anti-narcotics division, had a radical plan to prevent escapes by people convicted of drug-related crimes. He sought to build detention centers that would be surrounded by moats filled with crocodiles and piranhas. But his replacement, Heru Winarko, has a different approach. He wants addicts and dealers to receive counseling in comfortable rehabilitation centers. I hope that in the coming weeks, as you deal with weaknesses, flaws, and sins-both your own and others-you'll opt for an approach more like Winarko's than Waseso's.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In one sense, a "patron saint" is a Catholic saint who is a heavenly advected for a party. saint who is a heavenly advocate for a person, group, activity, thing, or place. St. Jude is the patron saint of lost causes, for instance. St. Francis of Assisi is the guardian of animal welfare and St. Kentigern is the protector against verbal abusers. "Patron saint" may also be invoked poetically to refer to a person who serves as a special guide or influence. For example, in one of his short stories, Nathaniel Hawthorne refers to a veteran nurse as "the patron saint" for young hybricians." In secondarpa, with jurnary estrolaries. patron saint of young physicians." In accordance with current astrological omens, linvite you to fantasize about persons, groups, activities, things, or places for whom you might be the patron saint. To spur your imagination, here are some appropriate possibilities. You could be the patron saint of the breeze at dawn, of freshly picked figs, of singing humorous love songs in the sunlight, of unpredictable romantic adventures, of life-changing epiphanies while hiking in nature, of soul-stirring music.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In August 1933, author Virginia Woolf CANCER June 21-July 22; in August 1933, author Virginia Woolf wrote a critical note to her friend, the composer Ethel Smyth, lamenting her lack of emotional subtlety. "For you," Woolf told Smyth, "either things are black, or they're white; either they're sobs or shouts--whereas, I always glide from semi-tone to semi-tone." In the coming weeks, fellow Cancerian, you may encounter people who act like Smyth. But it will be your sacred duty, both to yourself and to life, to remain loyal and faithful to the rich complexity of your feelings. complexity of your feelings.

■ Col (July 23-Aug. 22): "People think of education as something they can finish," said writer and scientist Isaac Asimov, who wrote or edited over 500 books. His point was that we're wise to be excited about learning new lessons as long as we're on this earth. To cultivate maximum vitality, we should always be engaged in the processes of absorbing new knowledge and mastering new skills and deepening our understanding. Does that sound appealing to you, Leo? I hope so, especially in the coming weeks, when you will have an enhanced ability to see the big picture of your future needs for

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Virgo businessman Warren Buffet is among the top five wealthlest people on the planet. In an average year, his company Berkshire Hathaway adds \$36 billion to its already swollen coffers. But in 2017, thanks to the revision of the U.S. tax code by President Trump and his buddies, Buffet earned \$55 billion—an increase of 83 percent over his usual haul. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you're entering a year-long phase when your financial chances could have a middle resemblance to Buffet's 2017. I'm not predicting your earnings will increase by 83 percent. But 15 percent isn't unreasonable. So start planning how you'll do it!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-0ct. 22): As he stepped up to use an ATM in a supermarket, a Scottish man named Colin Banks found £30 (about \$40 U.S.) that the person who used the machine before him had inadvertently neglected to take. But rather than pocketing it, Banks turned it in to a staff member, and eventually the cash was reunited with its proper owner. Shortly after performing his good deed, Bank won £50,000 (about \$64,500 U.S.) in a grap of chappen, it was instant kernel independing extensible positive kiled IM. game of chance. It was instant karma in dramatic action—the positive kind! My analysis of the astrological omens reveals that you're more likely than usual to benefit from expeditious cosmic justice like that. That's why I suggest you intensify your commitment to doing good deeds.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): As you dive down into your soul's depths in quest for renewal, remember this testimony from poet Scherezade Slobhan: "I want to dig out what is ancient in me, the mistaken-for-monster... and let it teach me how to be unafraid again." Are you brave and brazen enough to do that yourseli? It's an excellent time to douse your fear by drawing wild power from the primal sources of your life. To earn the right to soar through the heights in November and December, delve as deep as you can in the coming weeks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): According to author Elizabeth Gilbert, here's "the central question upon which all creative living alight, liefes are central question upon winch all creative alving hings: do you have the courage to bring forth the treasures that are hidden within you?" When I read that thought, my first response was, why are the treasures hidden? Shouldn't they be completely obvious? My second response was, why do you need courage to bring forth the treasures? Shouldn't that be the easiest and most enjoyable task imaginable? Everything you just read is a perfect riddle for you to contemplate during the next 14 months, Segittarius.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A blogger named Sage Grace offers her readers a list of "cool things to call me besides cute." They include dazzling, alluring, sublime, magnificent, and exquisite. Is it OK if Japply those same adjectives to you, Capricorn? I'd like to add a few more, as well: resplendent, delightful, intriguing, magnetic, and incandescent. I hope that in response you don't flinch with humility or protest that you're not worthy of response you don't milet with milet with milet with properties that you're het worthy to such glorification. According to my astrological analysis, now is one of those times when you deserve extra appreciation for your idiosyncratic appeal and intelligence. Tell your allies and loved ones that I said so. Inform them, too, that giving you this treatment could help mobilize one of your half-asleep

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Many educated Americans and Europeans think of reincarnation as a loony delusion, even though it's a cornerstone of spiritual belief for over 1.5 billion earthlings. I myself regard it as a hypothesis worthy of intelligent consideration, although 1'd need hundreds of pages to explain my version of it. However you imagine it, Aquarius, you now have extra access to knowledge and skills and proclivities you possessed in what we might refer to as your "past lives"—especially in those past lives in which you were an explorer, maverick, outlaw, or pioneer. I bet you'll feel freer and more experimental than usual during the next four

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "When the winds of change blow," says a Chinese proverb, "some people build walls while others build windmills." Since the light breezes of change may sone volve into brisk gusts of change in your vicinity, I wanted to bring this thought to your attention. Will you be more inclined to respond by constructing walls or windmills? I don't think it would be foolish for you to favor the walls, but in the long run I suspect that windmills would serve you better

freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com

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wed : september 19 7pm : kfai house party presents stephanie niles 9:30pm : dan israel

thu: september 20 10pm : cross pollination ingeborg von agassiz, willow waters, daniel patrick rosen

fri : september 21 7pm : laura and sean's movie and music trivia 10pm: night jobs, edward the confessor, sharon is karen

sat : september 22 331 drinkin' spelling bee 10pm : kill palace (ep release) cigarette bums, wax lead

> sun : september 23 3-5pm : no fun sunday

> katey bellville spm: trivia mafia

mon : september 24 spm: the roe family singers 10pm: doug otto and friends

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FIGUREHEADS

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

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- 5 Taxiing spot
- With 72-Across, fast food 11 chain, and a hint to this puzzle's theme
- 15 Organs are part of it: Ahhr.
- Beethoven symphony 16 "So much

17

- Go back and forth 18 between types of sparkle?
- Rooms with foosball 20 tables
- 21 "Mon_
- 22 Stepped on
- 24 Game 1 starter, often
- 25 Brute in a touring band's vehicle?
- 29 Fifth Harmony singer Jauregui
- 31 Choler
- 32 Buffoon
- 33 Band with a noteworthy Bass
- 34 Its national dish is ceviche
- 36 Calculus expert's deg.
- 37 Locate
- 39 Thor's weapon?
- 42 Myrrh carrier
- 45 __ in Nancy
- 46 Rice cookers
- 50 Tune publisher
- 51 Jaguars have four of them
- Switch grandaddy 53
- 54
- Possessive on a candy wrapper
- One rotating a sizable tub?

- Model Alexis
- 59 Time to give up?
- Bounce up and down 61
- 62 Wild-_
- Cover up a baseball field? 69 Sushi seaweed
- 70 "Lorna Doone" setting 71 Liver spread
- 72 See 11-Across
- Displays of military might 73
- Like molasses

Down

- Cuban man?
- When challenged
- Seattle athlete 3
- Ocular irritations
- Digits in a signature file, briefly
- NFC West team, briefly 6
- Turn bad
- 8 Winter covering
- ASUS rival 9
- Danvers (Captain 10 Marvel)
- 11 Bouquet delivering co.
- "Loud 'n clear!" 12
- 13 Actor D'Onofrio 14 Substance
- Unincorporated US 19 territory with a palm tree on its flag
- Writer who went through Hell for his masterpiece
- 25 Top dog
- 26 Russian spirit
- 27 Shakespearean forest
- 28 Mild fuck

- 30 Move in on
- 35 Iris layers 37 Rather dapper
- "Let's do this" 38
- 40 Urge on **Author Seton**
- "Regulate" rapper 42
- "Bad hiding spot, dude" 43 Play ground? 44
- 47 Soccer defender blunder
- Attach by a rope
- Chivalrous address 49
- Binger's allotment 51 52 _ Dupa Fly" (Missy

on an ultimate team

- Elliott's debut album) Number of players
- 57 Easy victories
- 60 On deck
- 63 Put down 65 Alamos
- Small point
- 67 Audit org. Blade dampener

Last Week's Answer

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Fresh Start

A new lover means a new approach to climax

am newly divorced and have started a relationship with a man I've known and deeply cared about for decades. The sex is amazing—from start to finish, I feel better than I ever did even in the best moments with my ex. And in the most intense moments? He makes me see stars. He is a very generous lover-he turns me on like crazy and I regularly come while sexting with him. But I have yet to have an orgasm with him. In the past, I have had an orgasm with a partner only from oral or very occasionally from digital clit stim. My ex-husband was not skilled at oral, so I always had to fantasize pretty hard to get there (and regularly chose not to bother). My new partner has amazing moves and amazing oral skills. And he is willing to keep at it for as long as it takes. But regardless of how amazing I feel when he's going down on me, every single time I eventually hit a wall where I am just done. I haven't had a single session with him where I'm left feeling unfulfilled, despite the lack of orgasm. In contrast, any sex with my ex that didn't end in an orgasm left me feeling frustrated or, worse yet, bored. (There were also times when I'd ask my ex to leave the room so I could masturbate after sex.) Do you have any ideas as to why I can't get over that hump? Should I just be satisfied with the mind-blowing sex I am having, even if it means I don't have an orgasm? Is it OK to give myself permission to give up on partner-based climaxing?

NO ORGASM POSSIBLY EVER

Beware of those self-fulfilling prophecies! If you sit there—or lie there—telling yourself that being with Mr. Amazing-Moves means giving up on "partner-based climaxing," NOPE, you're increasing the odds that you'll never have an orgasm with this guy or any other guy ever again.

Here's what I think the problem is: You had tons of shitty sex with your ex, but you could climax so long as you focused, i.e., so long as you were able to "fantasize pretty hard." Your ex provided you with some half-assed oral and/or uninspiring digital clit stim that didn't interfere



Dan Savage

with your ability to focus/fantasize. In other words, NOPE, with your ex you were able to—you had no other choice but to—retreat into your own head and rely on your own erotic imagination to get you there. You may have been physically present during sex, but you were not emotionally or erotically present.

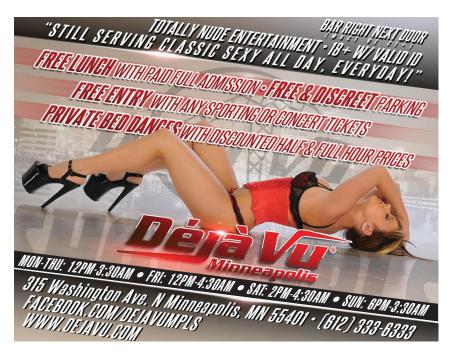
Because Mr. AmazingMoves' moves are so amazing-because he turns you on like crazy, because whatever he's doing feels great, because sometimes you see stars-you aren't able to retreat into your own head. For years, you had to figuratively leave the room so you could focus/concentrate on whatever it was vou needed to focus/concentrate on in order to come; sometimes you even asked your ex to literally leave the room. You created a powerful association between going to a private, safe, sexy place-pulling away from your partner emotionally, erotically, and sometimes even physically-and climaxing.

You aren't able to pull away from your current partner in the same way. Nor do you want to. And, hey, wanna know why you come when you sext with him? Because sexting is assisted fantasizing. You're alone when you're swapping those dirty messages with Mr. AmazingMoves, NOPE, kind of like you were alone when you were having sex with your ex.

You're going to have to create a new association, one that allows you to be fully present (emotionally, erotically, physically) during partner-based sex and able to climax during it. The trick is not to rush it and, again, not to box yourself into negative self-fulfilling prophecies like the one you ended your letter with. It may take some time, sure, but trust that your body and your brain are already hard at work carving that new groove.

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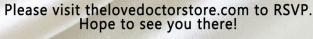
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